

But of those 8 percent who are, and this is the most important part, they need to concentrate on one of the enhanced plans when the open enrollment period comes up on the 15th of November.

Every Medicare beneficiary, every single Medicare beneficiary, 100 percent are covered for catastrophic.

What I would like to do with the balance of the time is to focus on the individuals who would benefit from being on an enhanced drug program.

Mr. Speaker, I have just taken a random page from some of the plans that are available in my State of Texas. This is what will appear on someone's computer screen. You have the company name, the plan name, monthly drug premium, the annual deductible, the cost-sharing coverage in the gap, the formulary percentage of drugs covered, and a checkmark for whether or not someone is enrolled in that plan.

If the plan you are in leaves you exposed in the coverage gap, I encourage people to go back to the computer screen or have their grandchild go to the computer for them and scroll through the plans available.

If you look down, Mr. Speaker, you will find that some of the plans, albeit they are more expensive from the standpoint of the monthly premium, but look, here is one with a zero dollar annual deductible. Yes, it has some cost sharing, between \$2 and \$40. Coverage in the gap, yes. Generic only, but if a person is on a blood pressure medicine, cholesterol-lowering medication or reflux medication, this may be a very valuable plan. And then the one right below it, again no deductible, but generic and branded.

This is the type of coverage someone needs to focus on if they found themselves having the expenditures in the so-called coverage gap.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN DARFUR

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New Jersey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I want to start by thanking my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative DANNY DAVIS, who has already spoken, and the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are here this evening to shed more light on what is going on in the Sudan and to challenge our other

Members of Congress and our administration to take action in this dire situation.

Many people, when they saw the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, believed that it was a fictional movie. Unfortunately, the actions, the things that were depicted in that movie, were not fictional at all. It is true that actors and actresses played the roles, but it depicted something that had actually transpired in our world, which has been described by Representative DANNY DAVIS as over 850,000 people killed through acts of genocide.

□ 1915

Unfortunately, that occurred with our United States Government and people around the world knowing that genocide was taking place in Rwanda and not taking any action to do anything about it.

Well, we are now facing a similar situation in the Sudan. We are up now to what is estimated to be 450,000 people having been killed by official governmental actions, genocide. We have declared it to be genocide. Our government has declared it to be genocide. And in addition to the 450,000 people who have been killed, over 2 million people have been displaced from their home communities, their villages, because they are fearful of staying in their communities lest they be killed by genocide also. And the beat goes on daily.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that must stop. It is inhumane and it is something that our country and people around the world should not continue to tolerate.

We visited, a number of us, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others, visited the Sudan and actually went into the displaced persons camps where we found conditions were horrible, where we found disproportionately women and children, because the men had stayed behind to fight, and most of them had been the victims of the killings and genocide. So we are going to have a situation where more and more and more children are going to be without parents if we do not act, and that is unacceptable.

The African Union troops have gone in to try to stabilize the situation, but we met with the African Union troops and their resources are depleted and they are not mobile enough. Even when they know another act of genocide is about to occur, they cannot move fast enough to the location where they know it is going to happen to prevent it from happening.

And so we have made it clear that the only way this can be resolved is for United Nations troops to be put into that area to stop the genocide that is going on.

Now, let me tell you what happened. The U.N. met and a resolution was passed, and still the United Nations troops are not in Sudan. The U.N. met and a resolution was passed authorizing troops to go into Lebanon, and the U.N. troops are already in Lebanon.

So there is something going on here, Mr. Speaker, that we need to expose to the world. We cannot distinguish between folks just because they are in Africa as opposed to the Middle East. We have got to take action. We call on our Congress and our administration and people around the world to do so this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DARFUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the world is in total crisis. The conflict and the devastation in the Darfur region of Sudan is abominable. I call on the President of the United States, who named Andrew Natsios at the U.N. to be the Special Envoy, that we put the full might and credibility of what we have left in our country behind the genocide that is taking place in Darfur.

You have heard the numbers. Atrocities, government-sponsored terrorism, where the President of Sudan does not even acknowledge not only the U.N. forces, not only the African coalition that is there to help secure his people, but that genocide and the killings really exist.

I was on one of the delegations that went to Sudan earlier this year in a bipartisan, bicameral visit. It was outrageous what we saw. Yet, today, as the heightened conflict, killings, this government in Khartoum is now dropping bombs on the civilian population in the refugee camps. Just think about it. They have run them out of their villages. They have burned their villages. They have raped the women. They killed the men and had the children in total chaos and asking for help.

We are the most powerful Nation in the world today. We say that all the time. We must rise up to save the young children, the women, and the men for the sake of their own country.

President al-Bashir has turned his head on it. The Janjaweed, men on horses who ride herd on those villages, kill people, innocent civilians, it could be you, but you are living in another country.

I am asking tonight that we recognize the genocide, the horrific conditions that are going on in Darfur, which is in the southwest region of Sudan. Sudan is the largest country geographically in Africa. It has black Africans, African Arabs and others in the country.

Khartoum in the northern part of the country is where the seat of government is. They just recently signed a

southwest agreement in Darfur that they might be better, and better take care of their people, which they are not doing.

The security is deteriorating. There is a credible threat of famine that exists. More and more people are going hungry and starving, and the world relief food efforts are not able to get to the people who have been run off of their land.

The cease-fire is in shambles. The U.N. peacekeeping authority must keep in, and President al-Bashir is not letting them in.

Rise up. We need the Nations that surround the Sudan to speak up.

Egypt President Mubarak, I have been a strong supporter of Egypt, and I still will be, but you must speak up. You must do more. You and I have talked about this. You must do more.

Jordan, King Abdullah, you have got to get involved. You have got to get involved. People are dying as we speak.

The region must rise up. How can you let this happen one more time in any part of the world? These are people who cultivate and live and grow food before this atrocity which now has outlasted any other, including Rwanda, in terms of its devastation and loss of life.

The Chad-Sudan border that I visited on another occasion is overwhelmed by the people who are fleeing Sudan. Do we want to keep the chaos going? Do we not really have to sign up as God's people, one Nation under God and treat all of His people the same?

We have the authority, we have the power, and we have the partnerships to bring this to a conclusion. So I join my CBC colleagues this evening and ask that America rise up, that the Middle East region speak out to help people who cannot help themselves.

I want to thank Congressman DONALD PAYNE who is the author of a resolution that we sponsored and passed, H.R. 3127. We passed it in April. We sent it to the Senate, where they sat on it. Now, I understand a Senator does not want to pass it because it was too strong. How can a resolution be strong, too strong when it is about the very subsistence of life for a people?

So I call on all good men and women of the world, Darfur needs us to step up, the people, the children, the women, the men, the villages. We can do better.

I ask that we stand and fight and speak and work, that the people in Darfur can have life and have it more abundantly.

Mr. Speaker, today the African Union agreed to extend its mandate of peacekeeping forces in Darfur through the end of the year ensuring that international troops will remain in the Sudanese province for now. I rise today to support H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. Current circumstances dictate that we develop tangible solutions, in order to provide hope to the people of Darfur. Darfurians are suffering extreme hardships. Every day is a struggle to survive for the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, in camps in Chad.

The Sudanese conflict in Darfur is the longest running civil war in Africa, and there are no clear signs of a negotiated resolution. President Bashir has said time and time again that he will not approve U.N. forces to come in to his country.

There are at least 2.61 million people affected by the conflict. Children no longer attend school, women face the prospects of rape, violence and death each day as they exist in refugee camps and venture outside the confines of camp for water and firewood. 70,000 people have already lost their lives. The number of displaced persons continues to expand and is estimated now at 1.9 million people.

When I say the situation is worsening, the facts reinforce the reality. Even as I stand before you, the Sudanese government is engaged in aerial bombings directed at the refugees. The Janjaweed are directing increasing bold and violent attacks, massacres of refugees. The African Union has affirmed its intention to fulfill its mandate, but it is imperative that the transition to a United Nations force be made consistent with Security Council Resolution 1706.

The world is watching as genocide engulfs victims in an African country. It appears that we did not learn the lessons that resulted from the genocide efforts that occurred in Rwanda. We vowed never to forget; yet, we are not doing enough to ensure the safety and security of innocent victims in Darfur.

It is critical to place the matter of Darfur in context. The porous border between Sudan and Chad is expected to see a massive influx of about 20,000 refugees at the expiration of the AU mandate. A number of estimates suggest that this number will be closer to 50,000 people. The World Food Program has stated unequivocally that they are incapable of providing food and assistance whenever the current crisis deteriorates. The fact of the matter is the current conflict presents a moral imperative for the world and for people of conscience. If nothing is done, there will be negative impact in neighboring countries. Many of the neighboring countries will be overextended as their limited resources are stretched to cope with the needs of the refugees.

It cannot be overemphasized that more leadership must occur in order to end the crimes against humanity occurring in Darfur. It is clear that the government of Khartoum thinks that the world, the U.N. and African and Muslim countries lack the moral resolve to tackle this issue. The countries of Egypt and Nigeria must exert their considerable influence to tackle this ever-widening problem. God and history will judge all of us harshly if we do not rescue the current victims of Janjaweed atrocities.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that genocide was occurring in Darfur, Sudan. Even with a declaration of genocide, the suffering continues.

We in the Congress have told the people of Darfur that help is on the way. The FY 07 request includes \$108 million for refugee assistance, \$60 million for conflict management in Sudan, \$170 million for Peacekeeping Operations, PKO, which is \$30 million less than the request, and approximately \$70 million for Contributions to International Peacekeeping, CIPA. But these resources are far from enough.

What is required is a moral imperative and clear, decisive mandates emanating from the

UN that provide blue helmet soldiers on the ground with the authority to uphold peace.

I have traveled to Darfur, and I am pained to say that the genocide occurring in Darfur is tantamount to ethnic cleansing by Arab Muslims against indigenous African Muslims. There is no escaping this reality.

In closing, it is crucial that the following occur. We must support the Special Envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, former USAID Administrator appointed by President Bush. Nonetheless, there is still a strong need for passage of the Special Envoy Resolution, H. Res. 992. This resolution not only calls for the appointment of a Special Envoy but also for that individual to have a strong mandate, staff and backing of senior administration officials. Passage of this bill will show Congressional support for the Envoy. All 4 Co-chairs of the Sudan Caucus are co-sponsors.

Finally, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, H.R. 3127, passed the House last spring. Another version of this bill, S. 1462, also passed the Senate. House and Senate staff met in April to agree on a compromise. The Senate had agreed to take up H.R. 3127. For months the bill languished. Last Monday, Senator LUGAR introduced a new version of H.R. 3127. Procedurally and time-wise this presents several problems. It is crucial that Congress pass a bill that will address the plight of the victims of Sudan before we adjourn, and that, in turn, the president sign the legislation.

We must send a clear and strong message to our suffering brothers and sisters in Darfur to hold strong.

ENDING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to my colleagues' plea to this administration to make ending the genocide in Darfur a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, joining my colleagues, thanking them for all of the work that they have done. The Congressional Black Caucus, led by Mr. DONALD PAYNE, have done everything we could possibly do.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other concerned Members of Congress have written letters to the Bush administration, letters to the United Nations, visited the United Nations on more than one occasion, met with Kofi Annan. We have done everything we could possibly do. Each of us individually have written letters. I wrote to the President back in 2004 and implored him to take action.

In July of 2004, I sent letters to the other members of the United Nations Security Council, urging that the United Nations take action to end the slaughter in Sudan. This letter was signed by 41 Members of Congress, including my good friend from across the aisle, Congressman SPENCER BACHUS.

Last April, Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressing our support for the appointment of a Special Envoy